

September 9, 2019

The Honorable Anna G. Eshoo
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Health
House Energy and Commerce Committee
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Chairman
House Energy and Commerce Committee
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Greg Walden
Ranking Member
House Energy and Commerce Committee
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mike Burgess
Ranking Member
House Energy and Commerce Committee
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Written Testimony for the Hearing Record Submitted to the Subcommittee on Health of the House Ways and Means Committee "Improving Maternal Health: Legislation to Advance Prevention Efforts and Access to Care."

Dear Chairwoman Eshoo, Chairman Pallone, Ranking Member Walden, and Ranking Member Burgess:

On behalf of Advocate Aurora Health (Advocate Aurora), we appreciate the opportunity to provide written testimony for the record for the Subcommittee's hearing on September 10, *"Improving Maternal Health: Legislation to Advance Prevention Efforts and Access to Care."* We commend you and the Subcommittee for your leadership on this important public health issue and stand ready to work with you to advance legislation to prevent and reduce maternal morbidity and mortality and advance maternal health, for all women, particularly those most at-risk for adverse pregnancy-related outcomes.

Overview of Advocate Aurora

Advocate Aurora is among the top 10 largest integrated not-for-profit health systems in the nation and a leading employer in the Midwest with more than 70,000 employees, including more than 8,100 physicians and 22,000 nurses and the region's largest employed medical staff and home health organization. A national leader in clinical innovation, health outcomes, consumer experience, and value-based care, the system serves nearly 3 million patients annually in Illinois and Wisconsin across more than 500 sites of care. Advocate Aurora is engaged in hundreds of clinical trials and research studies and is nationally recognized for its expertise in cardiology, neurosciences, oncology, and pediatrics. We are also proud to share that we have contributed more than \$2 billion in charitable care and services to the communities we serve.

Our newly-formed organization is proud to be a national leader in testing and implementing innovative payment and care delivery models and stands ready to work with federal policymakers to advance efforts to improve care quality and outcomes, while reducing costs. Advocate Aurora has a strong track record of innovation in healthcare delivery and demonstrated success in the Medicare Shared Savings Program. Both legacy organizations, Advocate Health Care (Advocate) and Aurora Health Care (Aurora), have been trailblazers in the journey to value. Advocate was one of the nation's first health systems to establish a clinical integration program and through that groundbreaking platform helped lead the nation in healthcare innovation and delivery reform. Advocate Aurora leaders – and others from our peer organizations – are eager to bring their expertise and experience forward to inform public and private sector efforts to increase innovation and investment in the health care sector so that individuals, families, communities, and the nation can experience better health outcomes, reduced costs, and improved efficiencies in our system of care.

AdvocateAuroraHealth

Both Advocate and Aurora have been – and continue to be – committed to improving maternal health outcomes, focused specifically on eliminating preventable maternal mortality and serious maternal morbidity. The merger of our two safety-focused organizations, Advocate in Illinois and Aurora in Wisconsin, allows us to share best practices and resources as we seek to improve the health and well-being of the women we are so privileged to serve.

Advocate Aurora thanks the Committee for its thoughtful consideration of proposals to address maternal mortality and would like to partner with you in the future on policy initiatives to ensure a strategic focus on communities at greatest risk, reduce disparities in access to quality health care as well as increase the capacity of the prevention workforce to ensure women across the nation have access to the best and safest care.

Support of the Mothers and Offspring Mortality and Morbidity Awareness (MOMMA) Act

Advocate Aurora respectfully requests the Committee to support H.R. 1897/S.916, the “Mothers and Offspring Mortality and Morbidity Awareness Act” or the “MOMMA’s Act,” introduced by Congresswoman Robin Kelly (D-IL), which will help to improve data collection, disseminate information on effective interventions, and expand access to health care and social services for postpartum women. The legislation also would bolster federal efforts to support states in collecting, standardizing, and sharing maternal mortality and morbidity data. Moreover, we appreciate that the MOMMA’s Act would permit states to expand coverage under Medicaid, the Children’s Health Insurance Program, and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) through the full post-partum period for women, which is critical to ensuring access to care. Advocate Aurora would like to thank you in advance for your consideration of our request to support and advance this important legislation through the Health Subcommittee and full Energy and Commerce Committee.

On behalf of Advocate Aurora’s physicians, nurses, and patients, we thank you for your leadership on this important public health priority. We stand ready to work with you and your colleagues on to advance policies and programs to ensure women have access to high quality prenatal and postpartum care. Should you or your staff have any questions or if we can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me or Shauna Gardner, Director, Federal Government Relations (Shauna.Gardner@advocatehealth.com or 630-929-6619). Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Joyce Rogers
Chief Government Affairs Officer
Advocate Aurora Health